

# ABSTRACT

An  $\alpha$ -alumina powder suitably used as an additive to a magnetic recording medium and a method of producing the same are described.

An  $\alpha$ -alumina powder wherein the average primary particle diameter is 10 to 100 nm, the content of an  $\alpha$  phase represented by the following formula:

$$I_{(113)} / (I_{(113)} + I_{(200)}) \quad (1)$$

[wherein,  $I_{(113)}$  represents the peak intensity of a (113) plane of  $\alpha$ -alumina in an X-ray diffraction spectrum, and  $I_{(200)}$  represents the peak intensity of a (200) plane of  $\theta$  alumina in an X-ray diffraction spectrum] is 90% or more, at least one first component selected from silicon, zirconium, phosphorus and boron is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 10 wt% in terms of oxide, and at least one second component selected titanium, iron and chromium is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 30 wt% in terms of oxide.